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## We're running out of school places for 2019'

A SCHOOLS shortage in Southend means more than 60 children will not get a place at their preferred catchment area school in 2019.

Southend Council has launched a consultation into proposed changes to catchment areas for Leigh schools to address a projected oversub-scription in the number of school places by 2019/20.

A council spokesman said new data suggested that by September 2019, 63 children would be unable to get a place at five schools in Leigh despite living in the schools' catchment areas.

The council said new births data suggested that 37 children would not get a place at the Chalkwell Hall schools, 19 at Leigh North Street Primary and seven at the West Leigh schools.

In response, the council has proposed two pupil placement models - available online and at interactive sessions - for consideration.

Model A involves a reduction of catchment areas for six schools, enlargement for two schools and small changes to one other school.

Model B proposes that six schools have their catchment areas removed (West Leigh



**Cllr Courtenay: "Doing** nothing is not an option'

Schools, Leigh North Street Primary School, Chalkwell Hall Schools and Darlinghurst School) and that these catchments are replaced with a 'shared priority' area.

The council spokesman said a formal public consultation on one of these options would take place between October 2017 and the end of January 2018, with new arrangements being in place for reception pupils starting in September 2019.

Cllr James Courtenay, executive councillor for children and

learning, said: "Doing nothing is not an option. Admission arrangements for the Leigh area could be considered unfair by the national adjudi-

cator and challenged locally. "From 2019 onwards, the births [near] West Leigh Infants, Leigh North Street Primary and Chalkwell Hall Infants all exceed the number of available catchment places.

"When we combine this with the number of pupils that have historically moved into the area, the likelihood of all catchment children gaining a place is significantly reduced."

Cllr Courtenay added that the council understood that school admissions were "an

emotive issue". He said: "We will listen to all views and ensure we involve everyone and develop a fair and balanced approach to admissions which is fit for the

The council confirmed there will be a drop-in information session on September 18 from 10am to 3pm at the Civic Centre. Depending on demand other sessions may also be organised.

 To view and respond to the documents, visit southend.gov. uk/schoolcatchmentresponse.



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### **NEWS**





# We'll keep the Green Flags flying here...

### **By Michael Cox**

southend@yellowad.co.uk

PARKS and open spaces in Southend, Castle Point and Rochford have been given Green Flag awards that denote a quality park or green space.

Chalkwell, Belfairs, Priory, Shoebury and Southchurch parks in Southend were among almost 1,800 parks and green spaces across the country that were recognised with the

All five also received Green Flag awards last year.
The award indicates that the

park has the highest possible environmental standards, is

well maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

Cllr Ann Holland, Southend Council's executive councillor for culture, tourism and the economy, said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive Green Flag awards again this

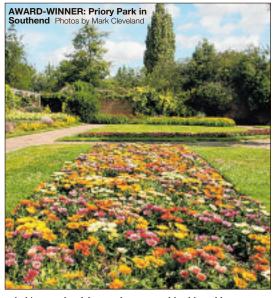
"We know how much our parks matter to residents and visitors, and this award cele-brates the dedication that goes into maintaining all of our parks and open spaces to such a high standard."

King George V Playing Field in Rayleigh was also recognised with a Green Flag award. Cllr Carol Pavelin, Rayleigh



Town Council chairman, said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive a Green Flag award for

the fifth year. We know how much quality green spaces matter to residents and visitors.



and this award celebrates the dedication that goes into maintaining the King George V Playing Field to such a high standard.

Cllr Dave Sperring, chairman of King George V Playing Field committee, said: "We are pleased to receive this prestigious award for the fifth successive year which very few open spaces in this area have achieved."

A garden in Shoeburyness won a Green Flag community award for the first time.

Growing Together Shoeburyness is a project by charity Trust Links to use gardening to help people with mental health problems.

The charity's CEO Matt King said: "We know how much quality green spaces matter to residents and visitors, and this award celebrates the dedication that goes in to developing and maintaining Growing Together Shoeburyness to such a high standard.

"This flag is the reflection of the hard work and dedication of our staff, members and volunteers in Shoeburyness.

Woodside Park in Benfleet was another park to receive a Green Flag while Barling Green Flag while Barling Magna Millennium Wildlife Reserve was awarded a Green Flag community award.



yellowad.co.uk **NEWS** 

# Captain Sam jumps to front of the queue

Local lad helps Team England reach record medal haul at Commonwealth Youth Games

A SOUTHEND schoolboy is celebrating with Team England after winning gold the Commonwealth Youth Games.

Sam Bennett, 16, who attends Southend High School for Boys, helped set the record for Team England's best day at the worth gomes in the youth games, in the Bahamas, on the fifth day of the event.

On Saturday, July 22, he won gold in the 110m hurdles, with team mate Jack Sumners from Stratford-Upon-Avon grabbing silver – securing England's first 1-2 of the games. Team England went on to

achieve its best day ever at the games, with a total of eight gold, two silver and four bronze medals secured in just one day in the pool, on the track, on the beach volleyball court and in the boxing ring.

Following day five's success, boys' captain Sam said: "I feel amazing. It is so good that the whole team have done well today. It's an honour to be part of the best ever day at a Commonwealth Youth Games, I'm glad I could do my bit."

On Sunday, July 23, the team secured another 11

medals, including seven golds from seven boxing finals. This brought the team's total medals haul to 51 – made up of 23 gold, 16 silver and 12 bronze.

The 23 golds put England in pole position. Then came Australia with 14 golds, New Zealand with eight gold, 14 silver and nine bronze; Scotland with eight golds, six silvers and seven bronze; South Africa with 8 golds, three silvers seven Singapore with seven golds; India with four golds; and Kenya with three

Team England's achievement beat the 44 medals it won in Samoa two years ago, and a number of the its junior athletes have already set their sights on the senior games on the Gold Coast







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# Centenary boost for Priory Park

started work on restoring the Priory Park gates - marking a century since the park was gifted to the borough.

A council spokesman confirmed the refurbishment of the gates would be completed by the end of the summer.

borough's 125th anniversary celebrations.

Cllr Ann Holland said the gates were an important part of the borough's history – the park was given to the borough by RA Jones in 1917.

Cllr Holland added: "The

for future generations and includes replacing the lion statues that originally sat atop each gatepost which disappeared in the late 20th century.

"I am looking forward to seeing the gates in their full glory once again."



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### Revised bid and appeal to be lodged for refused **Grand Hotel proposals**

rejected plans to redevelop the Grand Hotel in Leigh has vowed to re-submit a revised application as well as an

appeal.
Michael Norcross, director of applicant 460 Leisure Limited, outlined his next move after the application to convert the Victorian building (pictured, centre) into 19 flats, restaurants, and a basement wine bar and health club was turned down by Southend councillors.

Planning officer Anna Tastoglou recommended the

council's development control committee refuse the application on July 5. She wrote that the design, mass, scale, siting and size of the proposed fourth floor penthouse roof extension and the scale and design of the mansard roof, would be harmful to the character and appearance of the listed building and the Leigh Cliff Conservation

In another report before the meeting, it was said the appli-cation did not include a completed formal undertaking to "secure an appropriate finan-cial contribution to the provi-sion of education facilities in the borough."

Mr Norcross said on Twitter that he had decided to respond "positively and directly" to the council's reasons for rejecting the application, after discussing a strategy with his team follow-

ing the decision.

He said: "I shall be submitting a revised application removes the penthouse altogether, and agree-ing to pay the educa-tion contribution (which in fact I had

never refused to do). "Further to this, I still believe strongly in the merits of the refused scheme and will be keeping my options open by submitting an appeal against the refusal."

He added that the

revised application and the appeal will run concurrently.

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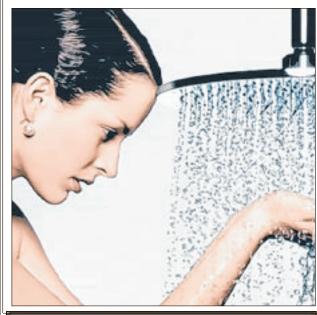
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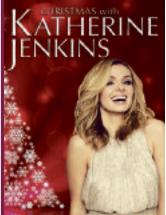




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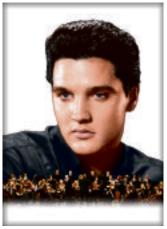
at the Royal Albert Hall

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Journey with us to London's iconic Royal Albert Hall and start your Christmas celebration in style with singing sensation Katherine Jenkins, as she performs a magnificent concert of seasonal music and songs.

### Highlights & inclusions

- A choir seat for Christmas with Katherine Jenkins at the Royal Albert Hall (Upgrades available)
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- One night's bed and buffet breakfast in a good hotel in the Heathrow/Greater London
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# Spirit's return to old haunt

features@vellowad.co.uk

ACK in 1954, just one year after Canvey's disastrous flood, a new ama-

Canvey's disastrous flood, a new amateur dramatics society, The Dolphin Theatre Group, put on a very successful play – Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward.

Now, after a 64-year break, the play returns to Canvey Island thanks to the award-winning local drama group, Cast & Crew Theatre Workshop, who will be performing the production at Lakeview Hall, in Hilton Road, on Saturday and Sunday, July 29 and 30. 29 and 30.

Socialite and novelist Charles Condomine and his wife, Ruth, have invited their friends Dr and Mrs Bradman to join them for drinks and dinner with local clairvoyant – the eccentric Madame Arcati.

Charles plans to observe the behaviour of Madame Arcati during a séance after dinner, to help with the novel he is writing.

For Madame Arcati, the séance proves unproductive and she leaves, unaware the evening's events have conjured a visitor that is about to disrupt the lives of Charles and Ruth beyond all belief - Elivra, Charles's

Marital hell breaks loose when Charles finally convinces Ruth that there is a ghost in the house - and a very mischievous one.

Can Madame Arcati return to help?
Director Rob Simmons said: "Our group likes to try different things, and Noel Coward is far removed from our last play, with its great characterisation and the scintillating dialogue, and of course made



famous throughout the world when adapted for the big screen."

Rob has chosen a strong cast – including Maxine Neal as Ruth, Matthew Willis as Charles, Sally Catling as Elvira, Sarah Lepley as Madame Arcati, Bernie Saxby as Mrs Bradman, Jeff Hodges as Dr Bradman, and Kyla Lupton as Edith – and the production looks set to leave audiences in "high spirits"

It also looks set to follow the group's pre-vious successful productions including Stags and Hens earlier this year, and last year's Smut's Saga or Santa and The Vikings, Prepare to Meet Thy Tomb and Cheshire Cats. While Cheshire Cats equally delighted audience, the production also caught the eye of judges at last year's National Operatic and Dramatic Associations' East Region Awards, during which it picked up Best Play in the District.

The Cast & Crew Theatre Workshop, which was established in 1999 as an amateur dramatics group for all the people of Canvey Island and Castle Point, is focused on giving its members the chance to take part in plays both on stage as actors and off stage as directors and technical crew.

Since 2004, when both of its co-founders sadly suffered bereavement, members of the group have been collecting at shows for good causes in the community in tribute to people that members of the group have lost.

Through bucket collections at its productions and special fundraising shows, members of the group have raised more than £12,000 over the years, which has all gone back into the community.

Turn to page 26



MEMORIES: The Original Dolphin Theatre MEMORIES: THE CASH TO STAND THE CANNEY OF THE Penn from the Canvey Community Archive

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### Coward's way out

From page 25
As well as entertaining the public, providing a dramatic outlet and raising money for local good causes, Cast & Crew has been busy raising awareness and informing the public about the history of the island by performing the factually based plays Flood! by Ray Knight, telling the story of the 1953 Canvey floods, and Canvey's Great War by Martin Lepley, which told the story of Canvey people during the First World War.

Meeting every Tuesday night at St Anne's Church, in St Anne's Road, Canvey Island, Cast & Crew welcome new members aged 18-plus.

As well as rehearsing every week from 7.30pm to 10pm and producing fantastic shows, members also enjoy a thriving social network including visits to other local dramatic groups' performances.

For tickets to see Blithe Spirit at Lakeview Hall, Hilton road, Canvey Island, either at 2.45pm or 7.45pm on Saturday, July 29, or at 2.45pm on Sunday, July 30, call Sarah on 07544 273535.

You can find out more about joining the Cast & Crew Theatre Workshop at www.castandcrew.org.uk and the history of The Dolphin Theatre Group at www.canvevisland.org.

### THE BIG SICK (15, 120 mins)

UST when it seemed that heartfelt romantic comedies might be in and terminal decline doomed to labour on life support, along comes director Michael Showalter's uplifting and bittersweet tale of crosscultural love.

Based on the real-life courtship of Pakistani-American stand-up comedian Kumail Naniiani and his wife Emily V Gordon, who co-wrote the script, The Big Sick is a small, perfectly formed gem, which is pol-ished to a dazzling glister by a superb ensemble cast.

Nanjiani plays himself to deadpan perfection and he catalyses molten screen chemistry with co-star Zoe Kazan as the luminous of his awkward object

affections.
Their fledgling romance is sketched in delicate strokes and when this amour fou hits an almighty speed bump that compels Emily to tearfully confide, "You make me sad inside my heart," we are devastated like her paramour.

The two-hour running time allows Nanjiani and Kazan to populaté each unfussy frame with flawed, believable and endearing characters. who don't always know what to say to ease the pain of the people they

Trickles of saltwater tears mopped up



# Girlfrien

hearted humour.

If laughter is the best medicine then a spoonful of Showalter's film is a tonic that leaves the sweetest

feeling.
In 2006, Kumail (Nanjiani)
hones his craft on the Chicago comedy scene with fellow stand-ups CJ (Bo Burnham), Mary (Aidy Bryant) and Chris (Kurt

Braunohler).
To pay the rent, Kumail works as a taxi driver and he enjoys precious family time with his father Azmat (Anupam Kher), brother Naveed (Adeel Akhtar) and Shroff), who invites a different Pakistani Muslim woman to the dinner table each night as a potential love match.

After one comedy gig, Kumail meets spunky audience member Emily (Kazan) and there is a palpable spark of attraction.

Kumail keeps the relationship secret from his family, then Emily discovers a cigar box filled with photographs of women hand-picked by his mother.

"Are you judging Pakistan's next top model? she inquires jokingly.

When Kumail nervously explains his parents' pre-sumption of arranged marriage, Emily feels betrayed and tearfully asks, "Can you

imagine a world in which we end up together?"
"I don't know," he replies. Soon after, Emily contracts a serious infection and doctors induce a medical coma.

It's left to Kumail to contact Emily's parents, Beth (Holly Hunter) and Terry (Ray Romano), and the trio bond awkwardly in the hospital waiting room and cafe-

The Big Sick wears its

sleeve and elicits roaring belly laughs from the central duo's predicament.

The script distributes the best lines between the cast, including Hunter and Romano as delightfully protective parents with their own relationship woes.

Director Showalter nimbly sidesteps genre cliches, allowing the pithy and occasionally withering words to speak louder than his actions.

> Released: July 28 Rating: 9/10



emina

To have your event considered for publication, send the details AT LEAST 10 DAYS before the issue date to: What's On, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, SS14 1AH. You can e-mail us at: letters@yellowad.co.uk PLEASE NOTE: We cannot guarantee that all entries will be included.

However, you can add the details of your event to our website at www.yellowad.co.uk

### Friday, July 28

■ Leigh Floral Group – St Saviour's Church Hall Kings Road, Westcliff, SS0 8.L.
7.30pm. Demonstrator Pat Dibben, Flower Power. £5, details 0.1702 52210.
■ Guided walk exploring the Mardyke Valley. Starting at the Davy Down car park off Plighrin's Way. Grays, 10am, £3.
■ Preview – Downstairs at the rear of The RINA Club, 73-79 East Street. Prittlewell, Southend, SS2 6LQ. Struck in the Middle, 8.30pm to midnight. Life membership £1.
■ Counselling Service – The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
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Group – Nevenden Community Hall, St
Peter's Church, Church Lane, Basildon,
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■ George Hurd Centre, Audley Way,
Basildon, for the over-50s, beginners tai chi:
10am to noon, darts: 2-4pm, marquetry: 10
to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm. Snooker and
bingo, \$22, 01268 465854.
■ Sequence Dancing – George Hurd
Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the
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■ Book Club – George Hurd Centre,
Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s,
10-11am. 01268 465854.
■ Drama Classes – Helen O'Grady Drama

 Drama Classes – Helen O'Grady Drama Academy, The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, not a stage school, designed to increase children's life skills, to enrol call Dina 01245 328680.

■ Table Tennis – Laindon Community

Centre, Aston Road, off High Street, for over-50s, 11am-1pm, 07931 564105.

### Saturday, July 29

■ Rayleigh History Walk – from Rayleigh Windmill, off Bellingham Lane, SS6 7ED 3pm, £2 per person. Details 01268 775328.
■ Saturday Club – for people with special needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts

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■ Yugioh Club – play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini-tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07985 671289.
■ Saturday Morning Club – St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am to noon, free entry, 01702 437863.
■ Brush Strokes Art Group – Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea,

Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea, 9.15am-12.15pm, 01277 627043.

Different Strokes Exercise Class for stroke victims – St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.

### Sunday, July 30

Jazz Workshop – Southend Jazz Co-op, Hadleigh old fire station, Hadleigh, 10am-1pm, £5 per session (concessions), 2 Canvey Miniature Railway Train Rides – by Waterside Sports Centre, Somnes Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9RA.
10.30am-3.45pm.£1 each per ride.

■ HOCKley & District Horticultural Society trading hut – behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell, 10am - noon. Membership £3.

Sunday School – The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am to noon, ages three to 10. Call 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.

07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
■ Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation - Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.
■ King's Church, Southend - Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, 10.30am to noon, 01702 523639.
■ Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourious and St Paul's, Salisbury Ave, Westcliff, 10am to noon, 01702 466435.
■ Sunday Club - TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (age three to 12), 10.45-11.45am, details 01702 554904.
■ Mojo Friendship Club - Travellers' Joy.

Mojo Friendship Club – Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, details Mo 07757 658799.

### Monday, July 31

■ Ron Spack's Jazztet - John Sharpe. ■ Non Spacks Jazztet – John Sharpe, saxophone, Gareth George, guitar, Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, Southend, 8.30pm. Details 01702 512819. ■ Bowls – FS&S Club, Gardiners Close, Basildon. All-weather green, free coaching,

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■ Club 50+ – 1B Queen's Road,
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East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702
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■ Leigh Scrabble Club – 7-10pm. Wesley
Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Turn
up or call 01268 727915.

■ Senior Citizens Club – Richmond Hall,
Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.

■ Counselling Service – Olive Tree
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■ Over-50s Keep-fit Classes – Fryerns
Community Centre, Pat 01268 770294.

■ Duplicate Bridge – Balmoral Bridge Club,
Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue,
Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm,
call 01702 343611 or 01702 520993.

■ Duplicate Bridge – Thorpe Bay Bridge
Club, 62 Southchurch Blvd, Southend, all
standards, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed),
7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.

■ Weekly Craft Workshop – St Peter's
Church Hall, Thundersley, 6-8pm, Michelle
27270.582784

Church Hall, Thundersley, 6-8pm, Michelle 07730 582784

07/30 582/84.

■ Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group – 8-10pm, James Hornsby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff 07913 426371, join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
■ Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.

Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh -

■ Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh – welcomes new members, Carnvey Short Mat Bowls Club, call Kevin 01268 792433.
■ Short Mat Bowls, Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
■ Indoor Short Mat Bowls – Prittlewell Bowls

■ Intoor Short with Bowns – Prillewell Bowns
Club, Priory Park, Southend, Ray 01268 777666.
■ Indoor Bowls – George Hurd Centre,
Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Monday
2-4pm, 01268 465854.
■ Whist – George Hurd Centre, Audley Way,
Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon,
details 01268 465854.

detais 01268 465854.
■ Senior Citzens Club – Ghyllgrove Centre,
Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.
■ Pensioners stall – York Road Outdoor
Market, Southend, 8am-2pm.
■ Evening of clairvoyance – 57 Point Road,

Canvey, SS8 7TT. 3pm, £3 all profits to charity. Tel: 07922 001433 or 01268 691922.

charty. let: 07922 001433 or 01205 691922.

■ Development Healing Circle – Face
Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff,
understanding of spiritual healing and
prayer, 8-9.30pm, 07879 004744.

■ Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club,
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■ Fitness Walking – from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.15-8.15pm, 01702 715509.
■ Scrabble Club – Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, no partner needed, 7-10pm, 23, call 01268 727915.
■ Hadleigh Castle Townswomen's Guild – Appliance Hall, Old Fire Station, High Street S57 2PA, 1.30-3.30pm. Visitors £2.50.
■ IT help sessions – Billericay Library, 10.30am to noon. Details 01277 624624.
■ Computer help session – Billericay Library, 10.30am to noon. Free. 01277 624624.

### Tuesday, August 1

The Thalian Theatre Group open auditions for The Truth by Terry Pratchett at Laindon Community Centre (canteen),

at Laindon Community Centre (canteen),
8-10pm, acting roles or backstage.
■ Painting class – The Studio, Glebelands
Nursery, Hawkwell, Hockley, SS5 4JY.
10.30am-12.30pm, Details 01702 30717.
■ Counselling service – The Olive Tree
Centre, 9am-9pm, call 01702 524346,

enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
■ Yoga Class – Thorpedene Community

■ Yoga Class – Inorpedene Community Centre, Delaware Road, Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6, bring a blanket and yoga mat, ages 16-plus. 07961 314983. ■ Table Tennis – 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3,60 per session. ■ Social Dance Class – ballroom, Latin

■ Suciai Dance Class – ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. 01702 546219/542349. ■ Craft Group – Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh. 2.30-4pm. 01702 471873.

471873.
■ Little Lunchers Activity Club – St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.
■ Social Dance – 1.45pm, St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff, Ballroom, sequence, Latin, 01702 618771.
■ Scrabble Club – Hockley Social Centre (rear of library), 6.30-10pm, first two visits free, 01702 205910.
■ Evening of Calinovance – St Codlight

free, 01702 205910.

■ Evening of clairvoyance – St Cecilia's Christian Sprintualist Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.15pm, £2.50.

■ Folk Music – The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, 8pm. 01702 71511.

■ Willows Park Short Mat Bowls Club requires every convergenced players –

requires new or experienced players -James Hornsby School, Laindon. First session free, call or text 07952 043456

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STATION RD, WESTCLIFF ON SEA, SS0 7RA

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Children under the

age of 14 FREE

HALLMARK FAIRS: (01702) 613260

### **TODAY'S CRISIS -Political**

for anyone interested in the Bible Sunday July 30th at 3 pm

**Open Bible Learning Centre** Basildon Drive, Laindon For more details go to:-

OpenBibleLearningCentre.com/talks

Freefone: 0800 0197 125

### 3 GIANT BOOT SALES Willow Farm Every Sunday 6am

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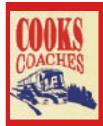
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# BOURNEMOUTH TURKEY & TINSEL 5 DAY BREAK

Staying at the Durley Dean Hotel in the West Cliff area. A Victorian townhouse, recently refurbished within easy reach of the shops.

20th November 2017 **£259.00** 

Includes half board & excursions

### **POTTERS FESTIVE PARTY**

21st December 2017

2 days - £99.00

Includes mulled wine/mince pie reception Evening meal, Potters evening entertainment, midnight feast & full breakfast before leaving for home.

### **DAY EXCURSIONS**

### **AUGUST**

10th - Clacton

10th - Festival of Quilts

10th - Walton on the Nazed

11th - Colchester town

11th - Colchester Zoo

11th - Natural History Museum

11th - Science Museum

12th - Legoland

12th - Royal Tunbridge Wells

13th - Audley End House

13th - Great Yarmouth

13th - Margate

13th - Ramsgate

14th - Constable Country

15th - Brighton

15th - Chessington

15th - Ipswich

15th - Woodbridge

16th - Hampton Court Palace

16th - Kew Gardens

16th - St Albans

16th - Watercress Line & Milestones

17th - Broadstairs

17th - Colchester town

17th - Colchester Zoo

17th - Windsor

18th - Canterbury

18th - Herne Bay

18th - Woburn Safari Park

19th - Clacton

19th - Duxford Air Museum

19th - Stratford upon Avon

19th - Walton on the Naze

20th - Longleat House & Safari Park

20th - Sandringham House

### tel: 01702 344702

Please call for our holiday and day excursion brochure also available from your local Travel Agent 607 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SSO 9PE • Email: info@cookscoaches.co.uk • www.cookscoaches.co.uk



# Get lost in meze of Akropolis

NE of the area's most popular Greek restaurants has attracted a growing band of fans since opening more than

10 years ago. With 25 main dishes, 28 starters, two set meals, and a variety of desserts on the menu, there is always something new to try at the Akropolis in Westcliff. For those with a large appetite, Akropolis serves a Greek Meze menu every day for £21.95 per person.

The menu, which introduces diners to the Cypriot way of eating, starts with tasty dips and pitta bread, and is followed by cold starters and fish dishes, Cypriot wine sausages, smoked loin of pork and grilled goat's milk cheese. Then it's on to the meats, and kleftico and stifado for those looking for more. To finish there are Greek pastries and fresh fruits.

The Akropolis Meze, available for two or more people, is ideal for parties.

The Kleftico Feast, includes traditional dips and pitta bread, kleftico, pastries and a platter of fresh fruits, for £19.95 per person.

The mouth-watering food is not the only Akropolis attraction, the restaurant also produces a good line in live music on most days of the week.

The restaurant, which can seat up to 60 people, has a fully licensed bar that can cater for everything from a quiet meal for two to birthday celebrations.

With its experienced chefs and friendly, helpful staff, Akropolis offers a top quality, value-for-money evening out. Akropolis, which can satisfy dietary needs and offers child-friendly dishes, is open from 5pm to midnight from Monday to Thursday, 5pm to 1am on Friday and Saturday, and from noon to mid-night on Sunday. night on Sunday.

It is at 120 Station Road, Westcliff with parking available near the Cliffs Pavilion. To book call 01702 437963.







**Pizza & Pasta Menu -**Starter plus Main Course - available Monday to Friday Evenings - **£10.95** 

Duo Menu - Main Course

**plus Dessert -**available Monday to Friday Evenings - **£10.95** 

3 Course Set Menu available Monday to Friday Evenings - £16.95

NEW Saturday

3 Course Menu Price Saturday Evenings - £22.95

Children's Menu - £4.95

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Enjoy some of the finest Italian & Continental dishes in town, in our air-conditioned fully licensed restaurant.

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Extensive A La Carte Menu available

Monday to Saturday Evenings.

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Specials

In addition to our menus we offer a good choice of starters & main courses from the "Chef's Specials" board available Monday

A wide selection of fresh fish is also one of our specialities

Take Away Service

We offer a take away service for any dish on our A La Carte Menu.

**Parties** 

Parties catered for up to 30 people.

### Spagnetti Junction Restaurant

767 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9SU

Call us for more details on: 01702 473388



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### BENFLEET £300,000

- Three bedroom semi detached family
- South facing garden
- Detached garage and off road parking
- Sought after location & on a corner plot
- No onward chain
- \* Kitchen/diner
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### HADLEIGH £295,000

- Fully detached 1 bedroom bungalow Centrally located for town centre &
- Ideal for retirement purchase or potential for re-development/extensions (subject to

permissions)

- 90ft rear garden
- Spacious rooms throughout
- \* Double glazed & upgraded central heating
- \* EPC Band E





### **HADLEIGH £375,000**

- Immaculate 3/4 bed semi detached chalet
- Sought after location close to fields Double glazed windows and GCH
- Spacious lounge with French doors eading to garden
- \* Separate dining room & study/bedroom
- Ground floor bathroom & first floor
- shower room
- \* No onward chain
- \* EPC Band D

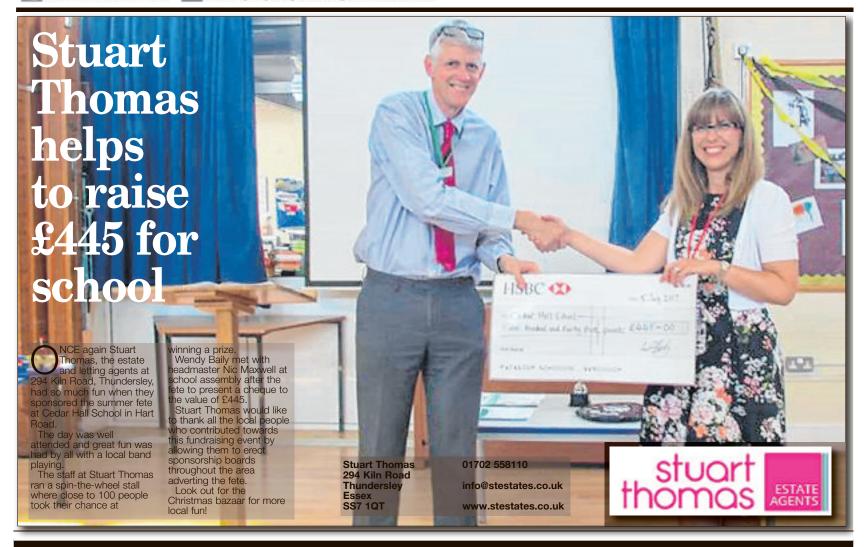


# Property





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### Westcliff On Sea £275,000









• Immaculate and spacious ground floor apartment

- Attractive kitchen/diner
- Two bedrooms
- Off street parking
- South of the London road

### Southend On Sea £300,000







Semi detached bungalow in Southchurch location

- Three bedrooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- West backing rear garden
- off street parking for two vehicles

### Southend On Sea £650 pcm



- Immaculate modern apartment
- Double bedroom
- Lounge/kitchen
- Off street parking

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- First floor apartment
- Two bedroom
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### Chalkwell - £825,000

A beautifully presented four bedroom detached house situated on the prestigious Chalkwell Avenue overlooking Chalkwell Park. The accommodation comprises of an open reception hall which leads through to the lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room and conservatory that overlooks the rear garden. The property further features a west facing balcony offering views of Chalkwell Park, that is accessed via the master bedroom which also has a luxury en-suite bathroom. Chalkwell seafront and beach are within easy access, as is Chalkwell mainline station that serves London Fenchurch Street.









### Westcliff-On-Sea - £549,995

A four double bedroom family home located in a popular area of Westcliff, within easy reach of Chalkwell Park and fantastic school catchment areas. The property benefits from being built in 2008 and still having a 1 years NHBC guarantee. The property comprises of three reception rooms including a large lounge, dining room and study/office/fifth bedroom, kitchen and integral garage to the ground floor. To the first floor their are four double bedrooms with the master including an en-suite. There is a secluded south facing garden with a decked seating area, side access and off street parking for 2 vehicles.









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### **RAYLEIGH £450,000**



- ●DOWN HALL PARK ESTATE ●THREE BEDROOMS ●BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED ●EN SUITE TO MASTER

WI NEEDS INCHES





- ●EPC GRADE D

### RAYLEIGH GUIDE PRICE £325,000 TO £340,000



- ●IMMACULATE PROPERTY ●THREE BEDROOMS
- ●WEST BACKING GARDEN



- **●**CONVENIENT FOR STATION

### RAYLEIGH OIEO £450,000



- ●THREE/FOUR BEDROOMS ●SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION ●THREE RECEPTION ROOMS ●SPACIOUS
- ●GARAGE & DRIVE

●EPC GRADE D

### RAYLEIGH OIRO £425



- **•**IMMACULATE PROPERTY ●CLOSE TO SCHOOL/
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### RAYLEIGH PRICE FROM



- BUILDS
- ●CONTEMPORARY STYLE
- OPEN PLAN LOUNGE/





●CONVENIENT FOR STATION ●EPC GRADE B

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- ●FOUR BEDROOMS ●EN SUITE & DRESSING
- ●3 RECEPTION ROOMS ●SOUTH FACING GDN





●DOUBLE GARAGE ●EPC GRADE TBA



the local



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### LEIGH-ON-SEA £450,000

- Many Character Features
- Cloakroom
- Stunning Kitchen/Family Room
- Utility Room
- Luxury Bathroom

- UPVC Double Glazed
- West Backing Garden
- Parking & Garage
- Well Maintained Throughout
- Must Be Viewed Internally







### **HOCKLEY £320,000**

- Minutes Walk To Station
- 2 Bedrooms
- 16'5 X 11 Lounge
- Dining Room
- Modern Kitchen

- Bathroom/WC
- Double Glazed
- Off Road Parking
- 75' Rear Garden
- No Onward Chain

### FREE VALUATIONS, FREE MARKETING ADVICE







### **RAYLEIGH £175,000**

Open House Saturday 29th July - 10am-12noon 13 Crown Heights, Crown Hill, Rayleigh, SS6 7HY - Sought After Retirement Development

- Care Line System

- Just off Rayleigh High Street







### RAYLEIGH £340,000

- 2/3 Bedrooms
- modern Kitchen
- 22'7 x 17'7 Lounge/Diner
- Bathroom
- 70' Rear Garden

- First Floor Cloakroom
- Off Road Parking
- Popular Weir Gardens Area
- Easy Access to High Street & Station
- Must Be Viewed

01268 770728

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36 Friday, 28th July 2017



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## Williams & Donovan

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Built by reputable local builder, Essex Developments Ltd., is this brand new, four double bedroom detached family home situated in a quiet side road within Hullbridge and benefits from having a spacious kitchen/dining room with bi-fold doors overlooking the 65ft rear garden/Built to an extremely high specification throughout. Anticipated Completion: End

Built by reputable local builder £525.000



Four bedroom detached family home presented in good condition throughout and benefiting from having recently fitted kitchen and bathroom, own driveway and detached garage. Walking distance of Hockley Woods, Westerings Primary School and Greensward academy catchment, shops and railway station. Ref 14300

FPC Rating: D £499,995

Wells Court, Ferry Road, Hullbridge



SPACIOUS TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT offering modern living accommodation throughout. Within a short walking distance to the River Crouch, local shops and the popular Anchor Restaurant. Offered with no onward chain. VIEWING ADVISED. EPC Rating: D. Our Ref: 14424.

Situated near the water front £190,000





Situated in one of Hockley's premier locations is this substantial five bedroom ex detached family home. The property boasts many fine features with rear approaching 100ft, large sweeping in and out driveway and double garage. Within distance to all local amenities and Hockley Woods. Viewing recommended. EPC Rating TBC. Our Ref: 14448.

> **Prestigious Location** £695,000

Pulpits Close, , Hockley



Three bedroom end terraced family home. Potential for further development to both real and side, subject to usual planning consents, with potential private access from Harrogate Drive. Some modernisation throughout. Within walking distance to local shops, schools and railway station. Offered with no onward chain. EPC Rating: TBC. Our Ref: 14355.

> Situated in the heart of Hockley £300,000

# **BUILDING LAND**

With or without planning permisson in SS4, SS5, SS6, AND SS7 Postcodes for waiting Buyers.

**No Commission Payable** 

Call Ian Williams or Colin Donovan for further details

Spa Close, . Hockley



Woodham Park Drive, South Benfleet



Hockley's most central roads is this three bedroom detached chalet. In need of modernisation throughout but offers excellent potential to extend to the side and first floor, subject to the usual planning consents. A stones throw from Hockley high street and main line railway station. No onward chain. EPC Rating: TBC. Our Ref: 14391.

> The heart of the Village £350,000

**Eversley Road, Benfleet** 





We are delighted to offer for sale this two/three bedroom semi-detached family home. located in the desirable dual catchment area for the OFSTED outstanding King John and Appleton schools. The property benefits from a rear garden measuring approx. 40' in depth and a detached garage with independent driveway. Our ref: 11970

> EPC Rating - TBC £285,000





An immaculate four bedroom detached family home with accommodation including a An inimaculate to bedoorn decrease family indire with accommodation insidenting a lounge measuring 17' 8' x 12' 8'; recently fitted luxury kitchen/breakfast room measuring 16' 5' x 11' 5'; four good sized bedrooms with en-suite to bedroom one; rear garden measuring in excess of 80' in depth and a garage measuring 17' x 16' 4'. Our ref: 11991

> EPC Rating: D £475,000

01268 755252

Within walking distance of Benfleet station, is this three bedroom extended semi

detached chalet. This property has been extensively refurbished by the current owners and benefits from having a modern kitchen/family room measuring 26' 1' x 15' max bathroom; ground floor cloakroom; conservatory and garage. Our ref: 11021

> **EPC Rating: D** £352,500

Shirley Road, Leigh-on-Sea

01268 755252





This outstanding three/four bedroom detached house has been maintained to a very high standard by the current owners. The property offers spacious accommodation including large kitchen/breakfast room; two reception rooms; ground floor bedroom four/study long with an en-suite to bedroom one and an attractive rear garde

**EPC Rating: TBC** 01268 755252

Underhill Road, South Benfleet



We are delighted to offer for sale this spacious four bedroom detached house backing and with views across Boyce Hill Golf Course. This property benefits from having a recently fitted contemporary kitchen/breakfast room; two reception rooms; ground floor shower room and 1st floor bathroom, with a 70' South backing rear garden. Our ef: 11755

**£580,000** 01268 755252

**EPC Rating: D £500,000** 01268 755252

Link Road, Canvey Island





This three bedroom end of terrace house is situated within close proximity of local schools

**EPC Rating: TBC** £180,000

### www.williamsanddonovan.com



























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#### HIGHLANDS, LEIGH £359,995

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# Vaux Crossland X ticks the boxes

#### **By Enda Mullen**

THE all-conquering crossover hasn't quite replaced the family hatchback just yet but its rise has seen what was once the de facto family car of choice for many deposed from its lofty perch.
Ever since the daringly different

Nissan Qashqai burst on to the scene, manufacturers have been launch many different takes on a vehicle which looks like an SUV verifice which looks like all Sov but is about as likely to go off-road as a Rolls-Royce Phantom. Vauxhall already has a more rugged compact SUV in the

shape of the Mokka, which is capable of moderate off-roading but is still essentially a crossover.

The slightly smaller Crossland X is a road-going crossover in the true sense and is front-wheel

drive only.
Vauxhall is now part of Peugeot/Citroen and the Crossland might be seen as a miraculously quick manifestation of that as it shares its underpinnings with the yet to be launched Citroen C3 Aircross.

In reality the car makers have been working together for quite some time.

The Crossland is a decent looking car, characterised by flowing design lines that work well.

The Mokka has been quite a hit for Vauxhall and no doubt there's high hopes for the Crossland. It's likely to hit the mark as it offers pretty much all the Mokka does

but in some ways more besides. Although it's marginally smaller it manages to have a bigger boot.

It's certainly family-friendly, though Vauxhall say they are also targeting older buyers, to whom the high driving position will appeal and the ease of getting into and out of the cabin

The Crossland is competitively priced, it starts at £16,555, and tops out at £21,380.

On the inside it feels open and roomy and passengers in the rear are afforded plenty of head and

One of the options is to have a sliding rear bench which can increase boot capacity from 410 litres to 520 litres for £300.

The Crossland has climate control, alloy wheels, cruise control and LED daytime running lights as standard. Options include a



self-parking function, which again may well appeal to more mature buyers. All Crosslands come with Vauxhall's OnStar system - which sees the car become a wi-fi hotspot, with the chance to hook

up seven mobile devices. It also has emergency response notification and stolen vehicle recovery technology.
Smartphone users can connect

to their vehicle remotely with a MyVauxhall app, which lets you view diagnostics, remotely lock and unlock the car, locate it, as well as downloading destinations to the sat-nav system.

There's an entry-level 1.2-litre offering 81bhp and 1.2-litre turbo with petrol direct injection is available in three variants.

The ecoTEC engine fitted to this car is mated to a five-speed manual gearbox and delivers 108bhp, while the 1.2-litre combined can also be combined with

#### **FAST FACTS**

**Price:** £17,875 **Mechanical:** 108bhp, 1,199cc, three-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels via five-speed manual gearbox
Max speed: 117mph
0-62mph: 10.6 seconds Combined mpg: 58.9 Insurance group: 13 CO2 emissions: 109g/km BiK rating: 21% Warranty: Three years/60,000

a six-speed automatic gearbox. a six-speed automatic gearbox.
The top-of-the-line petrol
engine is a 1.2 Turbo delivering
128bhp mated to a six-speed
manual gearbox.

Diesel devotees can choose from two 1.6-litre units delivering

98bhp and 118bhp.
The Crossland offers an acceptable if unremarkable drive. Ride quality is decent enough, though road noise did seem to intrude at higher speeds.

Overall the Crossland X ticks (or should that be crosses) plenty of boxes. It's a nice looking car that's impressively practical and also good value for money.



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LICENSING ACT 2003

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structural changes. There are no changes to
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be made in writing, by 14th August
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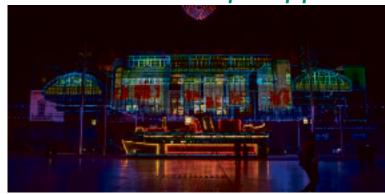


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# **BOPARA HELPS** EAGLES TO W

#### **Cricket**

Essex Eagles v Hampshire NatWest T20 Blast South Group Brian Jeeves reporting from the Cloudfm County Ground, Chelmsford

Hampshire 124/9 (20 overs) Essex Eagles 129/3 (14 overs) Essex Eagles won by 7 wickets

ALL-ROUNDER Ravi Bopara took four wickets as Essex Eagles saw off Hampshire to clinch only their second NatWest T20 Blast success of the season.

Bopara finished with figures of 4/19, while Paul Walter took 2/20 as Hampshire were reduced to just 124/9 from their 20 overs.

Michael Carberry top scored for the visitors with 30, while skipper James Vince scored 29.

However, those around them fell relatively cheaply.

On a miserable evening for Hampshire they failed to find the boundary from the middle of the sixth over, leaving them with an uphill task.

Essex knocked off the runs required with six overs to spare.

Bopara fittingly saw the Eagles home with a huge six.

Meanwhile, Dan Lawrence fell



WICKETS: Ravi Bopara

short of his half-century, chipping Shahid Afridi's delivery back at him while on 47.

Adam Wheater was among the runs for the home side, finishing unbeaten on 44. This could prove to be a big win for Essex as they look to kick-start their season in the

shorter form of the game.
After the match Bopara said: "It is

fair to say the confidence has been a little bit low and that is normally the way when you lose a couple of games.

"We needed to get a performance. In T20 cricket if you're not confident from ball one it can be tough.

"This will be brilliant for the boys. It has been disappointing so far, but

it's not over."

Essex's bowling was so tight
Hampshire were unable to hit a
boundary in the final 13 and a half

overs of their innings.

A disbelieving Bopara said:
"Really? All the way to the end? That's an unbelievable effort.

"That's what wickets do – if you take wickets it puts the batting side on the back foot.

"The opposition will get through a couple of overs and you think, 'Oh my God, we're behind it' and you need to get the run-rate back up

then you lose another wicket and it's downhill from there.

"The timing of the wickets were perfect from everybody today. To keep them down to 124, especially

at Chelmsford, is a serious effort."
Hampshire have lost back-to-back games and seamer Reece Topley said: "It is a momentum game. Two games in a row the momentum hasn't been there.

"It was with us in the first three games - it was going nicely, everyone was hitting their straps, and unfortunately, it hasn't been with us

the last two games.
"I can't blame the batsmen because I know how hard the job is, but we haven't yet had a perfect or complete performance from the batsmen and the bowlers."

batsmen and the bowlers."

Essex Eagles: James Foster +,
Matt Dixon, Varun Chopra, Simon
Harmer, Dan Lawrence, Paul Walter,
Mohammad Amir, Ravi Bopara, Adam
Wester, Duren ten Paccephert.

Monammad Amir, Havi Bopara, Adam Wheater, Ryan ten Doeschate \* Hampshire: Mason Crane, Gareth Berg, George Bailey, Kyle Abbott, Shahid Afridi, Rilee Rossouw, James Vince \*, Michael Carberry, Lewis McManus +, Reece Topley, Tom Alsop Pts: Essex Eagles 2

Hampshire 0

#### Glamorgan v Essex Eagles NatWest T20 Blast **South Group**

ESSEX Eagles hopes of recording back-to-back T20 Blast victories were thwarted by the weather on Sunday when their clash with Glamorgan at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff was abandoned.

They were looking to follow up Friday's impressive win, which was only their second of the campaign.

Essex are next in T20 action on Thursday, July 27 (7pm), when they take on Middlesex at Lord's

Pts: Glamorgan 1 Essex Eagles 1

#### Non-league round-up

## Jobi is back to give O's boost

By Brian Jeeves

NATIONAL League Leyton Orient have added Jobi McAnuff, Craig Clay and Romuald Boco to the squad.

Midfielder McAnuff, 35, spent two years with the O's between 2014-16 making more than 50 appearances. He enjoyed spells with Wimbledon, Cardiff City, Crystal Palace, West Ham United, Watford, Reading and Stevenage, and has also been capped on 30 occasions for Jamaica. He returns to E10 on a one-year deal.

Clay, 25, who made 39 appearances for Motherwell last season, links up with the O's on a two-year deal. He spent time with Chesterfield, York City, FC Halifax Town, Worksop Town and Grimsby Town.

The defender represented England C during his time at Grimsby. Boco arrives at Brisbane Road on a two-year deal having parted company with Sky Bet League Two outfit Accrington Stanley. The 32-year-old becomes the O's 11th summer signing. Benin international Boco joins Orient

after three spells with Accrington. He started his career with Chamois Niortais before joining the east Lancashire side in 2005.

Canvey Island have announced that striker George Sykes has rejoined the club a month after linking up with National League South side, Braintree Town.

Despite finding themselves relegated last season, Sykes scored 21 goals for the Gulls. Ilford FC have been successful in their

appeal to remain in the Essex Senior League. The Foxes were expelled following a meeting of the league's member clubs for the alleged failure to pay subscriptions and fines. But the Cricklefield Stadium club were reinstated to the ESL following an independent hearing at the Football Association's headquarters at Wembley Stadium. Ilford lost 5-1 at Felixstowe & Walton United in their latest pre-season

Ex-Maldon & Tiptree striker, Liam Nash, has landed a contract with Sky Bet League One Gillingham. The frontman, who bagged 37 goals for the Jammers in the last campaign, links up with the Gills on a two-year deal. Nash, who also spent a spell with Great Wakering Rovers, scored twice for Gillingham in a 12-0 pre-season friendly

victory over Chatham Town.

ProKit UK Essex Olympian League outfit
Southend Sports took on Essex Senior Leaguer's Hullbridge Sports at Cupids Country Club. The ESL club grabbed the spoils from what was a well-contested match thanks to a goal from Ronnie Pallet shortly before the half-hour mark.

Bostik North outfit, Canvey Island, were beaten 2-0 by Belgian third tier side Patro Eisden Maasmechelen at Park Lane on Friday. National League South side, Braintree Town, lost 3-0 to a strong Colchester United side. Sammie Szmodics bagged a brace, while Louis Dunne was on

target for the Sky Bet League Two outfit Chelmsford City won 2-1 over Bostik North side Thurrock at Ship Lane. Kane Haysman and Oyengua were on target for the Clarets, Jordan Clarke replied from the

penalty spot for Thurrock.

BillericayTown won 6-2 at Bishop's Stortford. Sam Deering (2), Danny Waldren, Joe Ellul, Billy Bricknell (penalty) and Louie Theophanous were all on target for Town, while Matt Tapley and Ryan Richefond responded for Stortford.

Concord Rangers lost 2-0 to Margate at

the Aspect Arena. Frannie Collin and a Jack Evans penalty ensuring the Kent side a vic-

## West Ham seal £16m deal for striker Hernandez

WEST HAM UNITED have bolstered their firepower with the signing of Mexican striker Javier Hernandez from Bundesliga side, Bayer Leverkusen.

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid frontman arrives at the London Stadium for £16million and follows hot on the heels of the capture of Marko Arnautovic from Stoke City for a club record fee of £24m.

The 29-year-old, who is Mexico's

all-time leading goalscorer, joins the Hammers on a three-year deal. Hernandez told the club's website:

said: "I am very happy to join West Ham United.

"For me, the Premier League is the best league in the world and when the opportunity came, I was desperate to sign for this club.

"It was not a difficult decision. West Ham is a historic club, and very ambitious - this summer you can see with the players signed that

they are looking to have a very good season.
"I've had three fantastic years

playing in Spain and Germany, but England was really the first big chapter in my career and I am so happy to be back.
"I am desperate for the season to

start and to help the team achieve

all their objectives."
Hammers Joint-Chairman David Sullivan added: "We are delighted tastic addition to the West Ham United squad.

"Following the arrivals of Pablo Zabaleta, Joe Hart and Marko Arnautovic, he is another top class professional who brings great expe-

rience and quality to the club.
"We now have some fantastic options in attacking positions and, like all West Ham fans, I am looking forward to seeing Javier score goals in a claret and blue shirt next

#### Blues face tough test at Ebbsfleet

**Ebbsfleet United 1** Southend United 1 By Brian Jeeves

SOUTHEND United faced their toughest pre-season test to date as newly promoted National League outfit Ebbsfleet United held the Blues at Stonebridge Road.

Trialist Amadou Ba saved the Blues blushes with an equaliser 15 minutes from the end, this after Darren McQueen had given Ebbsfleet the lead shortly after the hour mark.

Speaking to the club's website after the match, Blues manager Phil Brown said: "As I've said many, many times it's a means to an end. "Everyone looks at results. OK, it's nice not to get beat I suppose.

"Both teams had opportunities, we could have won the game comfortably, they could have nicked it, whichever way you want to look at it, but I don't want to read into that

"If anything we need to sharpen up in front of goal because when them chances come along, if you take them in league games then, with the experience that we've got in this team, you can actually coast through a game and win them comfortably instead of extending yourselves for 90-minutes trying to win a game.

"These are all key factors to hopefully how the season pans out but we have to sharpen up a little bit in front

of goal.
"That's the only criticism I have of the team."

Brown continued: "There's a lot of league experience here in the opposition today and it was a step up in terms of the challenge from the games that we've played so far.

"They're having a go, Ebbsfleet. I'm more than impressed by the set-

up here.
"They're going to have a go and see if they can get promoted again

and if you get back-to-back promotions before you know it you're playing league football.
"They've got a lot of league expe-

rience and that for me was the key to us getting something from the

game.

Ebbsfleet United: Ashmore, McCoy,
Connors, Winfield, Powell, Weston (Graham
79), McQueen (Shields 79), Payne, Mills,
Magri, Coulson. Subs not used: Milles,
Kedwell, McLean, Cook, Mambo, Miller-

Neave

Southend United: Oxley, White,
Matsuzaka (Demetriou 62'), Ferdinand,
Hendrie (Kyprianou 46'), Bridge (Cox 62'),
Leonard, Timlin (Yearwood 75'), Kightly,
Fortune, Robinson (Ba 68'), Subs Not Used:
Ceith Mana Care McGlashan. Smith, Klass, Cotton, Bwomono, Attendance: 689